

REMARKS

Claims 13-19 are pending. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The claims were objected to as being crowded and difficult to read. The claims have been reformatted to have a greater line spacing. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

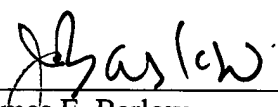
Claim 13 has been amended to recite that each mount rib is joined to the elongated main body at a proximal end, and the thickness of the proximal end of each mount rib is less than the thickness of the elongated main body. This feature is not shown in the patent to Berdan *et al.* nor the Nomura *et al.*

The feature added to claim 13 is non-obvious. That is, the present invention is molded, and sink marks are easily formed in the surface at the location of the mount ribs. Making the thickness of the proximal end, or root, of each rib less than the thickness of the elongated main body prevents the occurrence of sink marks. This feature is described at page 39, lines 1-6, and shown in Fig. 3C. Thus, making the thickness of the proximal end of each mount rib less than the thickness of the elongated main body would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Further, since the thickness of the proximal end of the rib is less than the thickness of the elongated main body, it is easier to remove the molded article from the mold. This is because it is easier to elastically deform the claimed article. In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz & Bethards, PLC
Phone 703-707-9110
Customer No. 23400